

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said slave apparatus comprising:

a communication controlling unit operable to select a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes, the plurality of communication modes include at least two modes selected from a mode corresponding to an imaging class, a mode corresponding to a mass storage class, a mode corresponding to a customized class, and a mode corresponding to a streaming class; and

a judging unit operable to transmit to said master device a notification code for notifying the communication mode presently selected by said communication controlling unit, and then judge whether a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within a predetermined time ~~or not~~ or not, wherein:

said communication controlling unit performs control on the basis of a judgment result of said judging unit in such a manner that (1) when the command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within the predetermined time, a state permitting communication with said master device is determined based on the received command, and that (2) when said command is not received within said predetermined time, said communication controlling unit electrically releases connection to said master device temporarily and then restores the connection; and

by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, said communication controlling unit selects a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes so that its presently set-up communication mode is changed to a different communication mode from that used immediately before said release.

2. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said slave apparatus comprising:

a communication controlling unit operable to select a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes, the plurality of communication modes include at least two modes selected from a mode corresponding to an imaging class, a mode corresponding to a mass storage class, a mode corresponding to a customized class, and a mode corresponding to a streaming class; and

a judging unit operable to transmit to said master device a notification code for notifying the communication mode presently selected by said communication controlling unit, and then judge whether a command received from said master device in response to said notification code corresponds to said presently selected communication mode or not, wherein:

said communication controlling unit performs control on the basis of a judgment result of said judging unit in such a manner that (1) when said command corresponds to the presently selected communication mode, a state permitting communication with said master device is determined based on the received command, and that (2) when said command does not correspond to the presently selected communication mode, said communication controlling unit electrically releases connection to said master device temporarily and then restores the connection ; and

by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, said communication controlling unit selects a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes so that its presently set-up communication mode is changed to a different communication mode from that used immediately before said release.

16. (Currently Amended) A slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said slave apparatus comprising:

a communication controlling unit operable to select a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes, the plurality of communication modes include at least two modes selected from a mode corresponding to an imaging class, a mode corresponding to a mass storage class, a mode corresponding to a customized class, and a mode corresponding to a streaming class; and

a communication mode identifying unit operable to transmit to said master device a notification code for notifying the communication mode presently selected by said a communication controlling unit, and then identify the kind of communication mode corresponding to a command received from said master device in response to said notification code, wherein:

said communication controlling unit performs control such as to change its own communication mode in correspondence to an identification result of said communication mode identifying unit and then establish a state permitting communication with said master device.

17. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, wherein said predetermined communication bus is a universal serial bus ("USB") type.

18. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said communication controlling unit performs said release by pulling up or pulling down a voltage applied to a D⁺ or a D⁻ line of said USB.

19. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said communication controlling unit performs said release by turning OFF a V_{bus} line through which a voltage from said host device is supplied in said USB.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The slave apparatus according to ~~Claim 20~~Claims 1, 15 or 16, wherein said mode corresponding to a mass storage class among the plurality of communication modes is set up as an initial state.

22. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said USB is embodied as a wire USB cable.

23. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said USB is embodied as a wireless circuit.

24. (Previously Presented) The slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, comprising a displaying unit operable to display information on a communication state including information concerning a communication mode presently set up.

25. (Previously Presented) A digital camera comprising a slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, and

capable of transmitting recorded-by-oneself data recorded by itself to said master device through said communication bus.

26. (Currently Amended) A communication setting method of setting a communication mode in a slave device capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said method comprising:

performing communication control by using the slave device to select a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes, the plurality of communication modes include at least two modes selected from a mode corresponding to an imaging class, a mode corresponding to a mass storage class, a mode corresponding to a customized class, and a mode corresponding to a streaming class;

transmitting to said master device a notification code for notifying the communication mode presently selected in said slave device, and then judging whether a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within a predetermined time or not, wherein

said performing communication control is performed on the basis of a judgment result of said judging in such a manner that (1) when the command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within the predetermined time, said slave device is set to a state permitting communication with said master device based on the received command, and that (2) when said command is not received within said predetermined time, said slave device electrically releases connection to said master device temporarily and then restores the connection; and

in said performing communication control, by the time when said slave device and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, a communication mode is selected from the plurality of communication modes so that a presently set-up communication mode of said slave device is changed to a different communication mode from that used immediately before said release.

27. (Currently Amended) A communication setting method of setting a communication mode in a slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said method comprising:

performing communication control by using the slave apparatus to select a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes, the plurality of communication modes include at least two modes selected from a mode corresponding to an imaging class, a mode corresponding to a mass storage class, a mode corresponding to a customized class, and a mode corresponding to a streaming class;

transmitting to said master device a notification code for notifying the communication mode presently selected in said slave apparatus, and then judging whether a command received from said master device in response to said notification code corresponds to said communication mode presently selected in said slave apparatus or not, wherein:

said performing communication control is performed on the basis of a judgment result of said judging in such a manner than (1) when said command corresponds to the communication mode presently selected in said slave apparatus, a state permitting communication between said slave apparatus and said master device is determined based on the received command, and that (2) when said command does not correspond to the communication mode presently selected in said slave apparatus, said slave apparatus electrically releases connection to said master device temporarily and then restores the connection; and

in said performing communication control, by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, a communication mode is selected from the plurality of communication modes so that a presently set-up communication mode of said slave apparatus is changed to a different communication mode from that used immediately before said release.

28. (Currently Amended) A communication setting method of setting a communication mode in a slave apparatus capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said method comprising:

performing communication control by using the slave apparatus to select a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes, the plurality of communication modes include at least two modes selected from a mode corresponding to an imaging class, a mode corresponding to a mass storage class, a mode corresponding to a customized class, and a mode corresponding to a streaming class;

transmitting to said master device a notification code for notifying the communication mode presently selected in said slave apparatus, and then identifying the kind of communication mode corresponding to a command received from said master device in response to said notification code, wherein:

said performing communication control is performed to change the communication mode of said slave apparatus in correspondence to an identification result of said identifying and then establish a state permitting communication with said master device.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium including software that is adapted to control a computer to implement the method of claim 26.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium including software that is adapted to control a computer to implement the method of claim 27.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium including software that is adapted to control a computer to implement the method of claim 28.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus comprising a slave apparatus according to Claims 1, 15 or 16, and

capable of communicating with said master device.

34. (Previously Presented) A digital camera capable of communicating with a master device through a predetermined communication bus and having a plurality of communication modes of diverse kinds, said digital camera comprising:

a communication control section operable to control a communication with said master device by selecting a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes, wherein

said communication control section performs said control in such a manner that said communication control section transmits to said master device a notification code for notifying the communication mode presently selected by said communication control section, and then

(A) when a command in response to said notification code is received from said master device within the predetermined time, a state permitting communication with said master device is determined based on the received command, and

(B) when said command is not received from said master device within said predetermined time, connection to said master device is electrically released temporarily and then said connection is restored, and by the time when said slave apparatus and said master device resume communication as a result of said restoration of connection, said communication control section selects a communication mode from the plurality of communication modes so that its presently set-up communication mode is changed to a different communication mode from that used immediately before said release.